

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00  
PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01  
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SIL-01 LAB-04 HEW-04 /090 W  
-----221554 130422 /44

R 221400Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5753  
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM  
AMCONSUL DURBAN  
AMEMBASSY GABORONE  
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG  
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA  
AMEMBASSY LAGOS  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA  
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO  
AMEMBASSY MASERU  
AMEMBASSY MBABANE  
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 CAPE TOWN 0250

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PGOV PINT SF ELAB  
SUBJ: BLACK ATTITUDES: BLACKS IN SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE FORCE

REF: 76 PRETORIA 5912

(NOTE: THE FACTUAL MATERIAL CONTAINED IN THIS MESSAGE  
IS TAKEN FROM A MORE DETAILED DATT PAPER BEING FORWARDED  
TO DIA THROUGH MILITARY CHANNELS. THE ASSESSMENTS CON-  
TAINED IN PARAS 6, 7, 8 ARE THE EMBASSY'S.)

1. SUMMARY: BLACKS ACCOUNT FOR 40 PERCENT (13,500) OF  
THE 33,000-MAN SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE FORCE (SAP), COLOREDS  
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5 PERCENT, INDIANS 3 PERCENT, AND WHITES 52 PERCENT.  
POLICE DUTY IN BLACK TOWNSHIPS IS PERFORMED BY BLACK  
POLICEMEN EXCEPT WHEN DISTURBANCES OCCUR IN WHICH CASE  
SAP RIOT SQUADS MADE UP MOSTLY OF WHITES TAKE OVER.  
IMAGE OF BLACK POLICEMEN HAS SUFFERED AS RESULT OF  
ASSOCIATION WITH WHITES IN PUTTING DOWN DISTURBANCES.  
NEVERTHELESS, THERE HAS BEEN NO MASS EXODUS OF BLACKS

FROM SAP, AND SAG IS EXPERIENCING NO DIFFICULTY IN RECRUITING BLACKS FOR SAP VACANCIES. THIS MESSAGE SUMMARIZES THE STRUCTURE, CONDITIONS OF SERVICE, TRAINING AND ROLE OF THE NON-WHITE SEGMENT OF THE SAP. ATTITUDES AND MORALE ALSO ASSESSED. END SUMMARY.

2. STRUCTURE AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE.

A. STRENGTH AND COMPOSITION: THE CURRENT AUTHORIZED STRENGTH OF SAP IS 35,523. ACTUAL LEVEL STANDS AT 33,082, DISTRIBUTED ETHNICALLY AS FOLLOWS: 13,484 (40PERCENT) ARE BLACK, 812 (3PERCENT) ARE INDIAN, 1,608 (5PERCENT) ARE COLORED, AND 17,278 (52PERCENT) ARE WHITE. FOR COMPARISON, THE POPULATION DISTRIBUTION OF SA IS 72 PERCENT BLACK, 16 PERCENT WHITE, 9 PERCENT COLORED AND 3 PERCENT ASIAN/INDIAN.

B. RECRUITMENT/RETENTION: DURING 1975 A TOTAL OF 1,371 NON-WHITES ENTERED THE SAP AND 1,283 WERE LOST FOR ONE REASON OR ANOTHER FOR A NET GAIN OF 98. THERE APPEARS TO BE NO PROBLEM IN RECRUITMENT. WAITING LISTS EXIST FROM WHICH THE ANNUAL INPUT INTO THE POLICE TRAINING COLLEGES AT HAMMERSKRAAL (TRANSVAAL) FOR BLACKS, BISHOP LAVIS (CAPE TOWN) FOR COLOREDS, AND WENTWORTH (NATAL) FOR INDIANS IS TAKEN. ENLISTMENTS ARE FOR NO SET NUMBER OF YEARS. RELEASE FROM THE SERVICE COMMITMENT IS POSSIBLE USING ANY NUMBER OF AVENUES, MOST FREQUENT OF WHICH IS THE BRITISH SYSTEM OF DISCHARGE PURCHASE.

C. RESERVES: THE RESERVE POLICE FORCE CONSIDERABLY EXTENDS THE SAP MANNING LEVEL. THE RESERVE FORCE CONSISTS OF VOLUNTEERS WHO SERVE IN UNIFORM AT NO PAY TO SUPPLEMENT THE LOCAL POLICE ACTIVITY. THESE PERSONNEL

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WORK AS CLERKS, DRIVERS, DESK OFFICERS AND PATROLMEN. THERE ARE 3,556 NON-WHITES SERVING ACTIVELY IN THIS CAPACITY AS OPPOSED TO 16,147 WHITES.

D. PROMOTION/MOBILITY: NON-WHITES CAN RISE TO THE RANK OF MAJOR. IN NO CASE IS A WHITE SUPERVISED BY A NON-WHITE. PROMOTIONS ARE BASED ON TESTS, COURSES AND FITNESS REPORTS. PRESENTLY, THERE ARE 47 BLACKS UNDERGOING THE PRE-COMMISSIONING COURSE AT HAMMERSKRAAL. NO SIMILAR COURSES ARE KNOWN TO BE UNDERWAY AT PRESENT FOR COLOREDS AND INDIANS, THOUGH THEY ARE HELD PERIODICALLY.

E. PAY AND ALLOWANCES: THE SAP PAY SCALE IS NOT MADE PUBLIC. DATA AVAILABLE SUGGESTS THAT THE PAY SCALE FOR BLACKS IS 44 TO 65 PERCENT OF THAT OF WHITE COUNTERPARTS. THE COLORED AND INDIAN SCALE IS ABOUT 60 TO 70 PERCENT. FOR EXAMPLE, A WHITE CONSTABLE STARTS AT R225 PER MONTH, A COLORED OR INDIAN AT R135.75 AND A BLACK AT R97.50. A BLACK CAPTAIN'S BASE SALARY LESS ALLOWANCES IS R3,600 PER YEAR AS OPPOSED TO HIS WHITE COUNTERPART WHOSE SALARY IS BETWEEN R5,304 AND R6,660

DEPENDING ON LENGTH OF SERVICE AND OTHER FACTORS SUCH AS LANGUAGE CAPACITY. (BONUSES ARE PAID WHITE POLICE WHO CAN SPEAK BLACK LANGUAGES.) OTHER ALLOWANCES INCLUDE UNIFORM AND FOOD ALLOWANCES AND A DANGER ALLOWANCE OF ABOUT R360 PER YEAR. FOR BORDER SERVICE, THERE IS AN EXTRA ALLOWANCE OF ABOUT R1 TO R4 PER DAY, DEPENDING ON MARITAL STATUS AND RANK. THE PENSION SCHEME FOR NON-WHITES IS UNKNOWN BUT THOUGHT TO PARALLEL PROPORTIONATELY THE WHITE SCHEME.

F. TRAINING: THE TRAINING OF NON-WHITES FOR THE SAP PARALLELS THAT OF THE WHITE PROGRAM. COMMANDANTS OF TRAINING ESTABLISHMENTS ARE WHITE, BUT INSTRUCTORS AND MOST STAFF ARE BLACK, COLORED OR INDIAN DEPENDING ON THE LOCATION. MUCH OF THE TRAINING IS USEFUL ALSO IN THE CIVILIAN SECTOR. STANDARDS ARE AS HIGH OR HIGHER THAN WHITE COUNTERPART TRAINING. LENGTH OF TRAINING MAY BE 50 PERCENT LONGER THAN FOR WHITES UNDERGOING SIMILAR

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COURSES BECAUSE OF DIFFERENCES IN BACKGROUND EXPERIENCE AND ENVIRONMENT FROM WHICH NON-WHITE TRAINEES COME. BECAUSE ABOUT 90 PERCENT OF THE WHITE SAP ARE AFRIKAANS-SPEAKING, INSTRUCTION IN THE POLICE COLLEGES IS BASICALLY AFRIKAANS COMBINED WITH ENGLISH. SOME SUBJECTS ARE ALSO GIVEN IN NATIVE LANGUAGES.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 CAPE TOWN 0250

3. ASSIGNMENTS POLICY AND NATURE OF DUTIES: POLICE ASSIGNMENTS GENERALLY TAKE TRIBAL OR ETHNIC GROUP ASSIGNMENT INTO CONSIDERATION WHEREVER PRACTICAL. AMONG THE BLACKS THE GENERAL DIVISIONS ARE: TSWANA, NORTHERN SOTHO, SOUTH SOTHO, ZULU, XHOSA, NDEBELE, VENDA AND SHANGAAN. IN MANY AREAS POLICEMEN ARE RESIDENT IN THE AREA WHERE THEY MUST ACT OFFICIALLY.

4. POLICE STATIONS IN BLACK AREAS ARE MANNED ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY BY BLACK POLICEMEN UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF WHITE OFFICERS. BLACK POLICEMEN ARE ALSO ASSIGNED TO STATIONS IN WHITE AREAS TO ASSIST WHITE OFFICERS IN CONFIDENTIAL

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DEALING WITH BLACKS WHO FIND THEMSELVES IN DIFFICULTIES WITH THE LAW.

5. BLACK POLICEMEN PERFORM A BROAD RANGE OF DUTIES WITHIN THE TOWNSHIPS. THE PRIMARY ROLE IS TO MAINTAIN LAW AND ORDER. IN AREAS WHERE THERE IS A HIGH CRIME RATE, THE BULK OF THEIR TIME IS DEVOTED TO THIS FUNCTION. BUT THEY ALSO ENFORCE APARTHEID MEASURES INCLUDING PASS LAWS AND OTHER REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE PRESENCE OF BLACKS IN WHITE AREAS. DURING THE DISTURBANCES IN THE TRANSVAAL AND NORTHERN PROVINCES, BLACK POLICEMEN WERE OBSERVED WORKING SIDE BY SIDE WITH THE WHITE RIOT POLICE. HOWEVER, THE NUMBER USED IS BELIEVED TO BE QUITE SMALL, DESPITE THE FACT THAT ALMOST HALF (48.6 PERCENT) OF THE BLACK FORCE HAS RECEIVED RIOT TRAINING.

6. ROLE OF BLACK POLICE IN RECENT DISTURBANCES AND BLACK ATTITUDES: PRIOR TO THE SOWETO RIOTS OF LAST JUNE, BLACK POLICEMEN ENJOYED A MIXED RECEPTION IN THE BLACK COMMUNITIES. AS A DISCIPLINED GROUP TASKED WITH MAINTAINING LAW AND ORDER IN AREAS WHERE THE CRIME RATE TENDS TO BE HIGH, THEY COUNTED ON THE SUPPORT OF THE RESPONSIBLE CITIZENRY CONCERNED WITH VIOLENCE IN THE TOWNSHIPS. AS COLLABORATORS OF THE WHITE POLICE IN

ENFORCING APARTHEID, THEY AROUSED RESENTMENT BUT NOT TO A DEGREE THAT ENGENDERED OPEN HOSTILITY.

7. THIS HAS CHANGED SINCE THE SOWETO RIOTS, PARTICULARLY IN AREAS OF BLACK PCOTEST AND PTOICE REPREYMION. IN THE TOWNSHIPS OF THE RAND AND CAPE, WHERE FORCE WAS USED TO SUPPRESS BLACK DEMONSTRATORS, WHERE HOUSE-TO-HOW E SEARCHES WERE CONDUCTED, AND WHERE STUDENTS HAVE BEEN DETAINED IN LARGE NUMBERS, THE RESENTMENT RUNS DEEP. WE HAVE FOUND THIS TO BE ESPECIALLY TRUE OF THE STUDENT SECTOR, THE PARENTS OF THOSE KILLED, WOUNDED OR DETAINED, AND COMMUNITY LEADERS. M BITTERNESS IS NOT ALWAYS WELL  
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REASONED OTUARTICULATED. IN SOME CEIES THE GRIEVANCE IS DIRECT AND PERSONAL. IN OTHERS IT IS THE OBSERVED FACT THAT BLACK POLICE EVEN PARTICIPATED WITH WHITES IN PUTTING DOWN DVTURBANCES OR THE MERE FACT THAT BLACK POLICEMEN SERVE IN THE SAME FORCE AFTER WHAT HAS TRANSPIRED. IN A FEW INSTANCES BLACK POLICEMEN REGARDED AS HAVING BEEN DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN THE REPRESSION HAVE HAD THEIR HOMES ATTACKED, BUT PHYSICAL HOSTILITY DOES NOT SEEM TO HAVE BEEN WIDESPREAD. TRYING TO FIND OUT HOW THE CHANGE OF ATTITUDE HAS IMPACTED ON BLACK POLICEMEN HAS BEEN MORE DIFFICULT AND WE ARE NOT SATISFIED WITH OUR SAMPLING. WE HAVE TALKED TO SEVERAL WHO ARE FEARFUL AND WOULD LEAVE SAP IF THEY HAD AN ALTERNATIVE MEANS OF SUPPORT. WE HAVE CHECKED OFFICIAL FIGURES OF BLACK POLICE TURNOVER AND FIND THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO SIGNIFICANT INCREASE AND NO DIFFICULTY IN OBTAINING REPLACEMENTS FOR THOSE WHO LEAVE THE SAP. THE TURNOVER STATISTICS ARE NOT NECESSARILY AN ACCURATE YARDSTICK, HOWEVER, BECAUSE THE ACUTE ECONOMIC RECESSION PLACES A PREMIUM ON HOLDING A JOB IF YOU HAVE ONE OR TAKING WHATEVER MAY BECOME AVAILABLE IF YOU ARE UNEMPLOYED.

8. PREDICTIONS ABOUT THE FUTURE ROLE OF BLACKS IN THE POLICE ARE RISKY. IN LARGE AREAS OF THE COUNTRY THERE HAS BEEN LITTLE OR NO VIOLENCE. IF THAT SITUATION PREVAILS, BLACK POLICEMEN IN THOSE AREAS CAN BE EXPECTED TO CONTINUE IN ESTABLISHED ACTIVITIES. THE SAG EXPECTS THIS TO BE THE CASE AND HOPES TO BE ABLE TO CONTROL NEW OUTBREAKS OF VITGENCE IN THE JOHANNESBURG AND CAPE TOWN AREAS WITH A COMBINATION OF REPRESSION (INFILTRATING, IDENTIFYING AND "NEUTRALIZING" THE LEADERS OF BLACK ORGANIZATIONS) AND CONCESSIONS (BETTER LIVING CONDITIONS, LIMITED SELF-GOVERNMENT FOR URBAN BLACKS, ETC.). AFRIKANERS FREQUENTLY POINT TO THE LOYALTY OF BLACK POLICE AND SOLDIERS IN RHODESIA AS INDICATION OF HOW AT LEAST A CERTAIN SEGMENT OF SOUTH AFRICAN BLACKS CAN BE

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EXPECTED TO CONTINUE TO BE RESPONSIVE TO DIRECTION OF  
EXISTING AUTHORITIES. THIS RATIONALIZATION OVERLOOKS  
BASIC DIFFERENCES IN THE TWO SITUATIONS AND HOW QUICKLY  
THE PROCESS OF RADICALIZATION COULD SPREAD IN SOUTH AFRICA  
GIVEN CERTAIN INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL CONDITIONS.BOWDLER

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## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** PGOV, PINT, ELAB, SF  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/2d44f2c3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
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